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Continuing Soviet Troop Activity Cited

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WASHINGTON-The State Department said Wednesday there has been no change in the menacing posture of Warsaw Pact military forces in and around Poland despite the Soviet Bloc's announcement that prolonged military exercises in the area had ended.

"We continue to observe unusual military activity in the area," State Department spokesman William J. Dyess said, using the same careful phrasing that administration officials have used for nearly three weeks to describe the Polish situation. "Soviet forces in and around Poland remain on a high level of preparedness."

Soviet Bloc press agencies had announced the end of the military exercises in Poland and along its borders on Tuesday, the day Soviet President Leonid I. Brezhnev said he was confident that Poland's communist leaders could handle the country's crisis.

Easing of Tension

The Soviet leader's remarks to the Czechoslovak Communist Party Congress in Prague were generally interpreted as easing the tension in the Polish crisis. But the State Department indicated that the U.S. government is not satisfied that the threat of military intervention by the Soviet Union in Poland has passed.

Dyess said Brezhnev's speech had neither made clear Soviet military intentions, nor had it lessened political pressures.

"While it seems to have been designed to give some reassurance on the issue of Soviet military intervention, it did not rule out any option," Dyess said. "At the same time, Mr. Brezhnev's remarks on the political situation seemed designed to place additional pressure on Polish authorities."

"There has been no significant changes in the forces that have been deployed and participating in the exercises," Dyess said. He had said Tuesday that "we continue to be seriously concerned about the Soviet military activity in and around Poland."

Throughout the crisis, the State Department has carefully used the term *exercises* rather than *maneuvers* to describe the Warsaw Pact military activity in the area. This is intended to suggest that the activity has involved command and control operations rather than the actual movement of troop units.

State Department sources said Wednesday that the command and control activities have continued since the announcement that Soyuz 81 had ended.

Initially, the war games, which are conducted each spring by Warsaw Pact forces, were expected to last for a week. With the crisis continuing in Poland this year, the exercises have continued for three weeks.

Intelligence sources said combat units have been in position to intervene at virtually any moment.